

# Crime Index for New York City

## 60% Over Nation's for 6 Months

By LEONARD BUDER

New York City's reported crime index for the first half of this year increased at a rate that was 60 percent higher than that of the nation as a whole, according to a Police Department analysis made available yesterday.

The increase moved the city into ninth place among the country's 25 largest cities in terms of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's crime index, used by law-enforcement authorities to measure crime on the basis of population. In the first six months of 1979, New York was 13th among the 25 largest cities.

According to the six-month index, there were 4,647.9 crimes reported for every 100,000 people in the city. Phoenix, in first place on the list, had 6,120.9 crimes for every 100,000 residents.

In one crime category — robbery — New York led all others during this period. Many authorities consider robbery the most accurate and significant measurement of violent street crime.

The department report, noted that New York City recorded a 15.9 percent increase in the crime index for the first six months, as compared with a 10 percent increase nationwide.

The increase in the citywide crime rate, moreover, has continued, another department report showed. During the first nine months of this year, there was a

total of 528,342 reported crimes in New York, a 16.9 percent increase over the same period in 1979.

Police officials have said that if the trend continues, 1980 will establish a record for the total number of reported crimes in the city. The previous high of 658,147 reported incidents was in 1976.

The report on crime index trends offered no explanation of why the city's crime rate was now outpacing the nationwide rate. Police officials in New York have over the years maintained, whether the crime rate here went up or down, that it was generally impossible to explain short-range statistical fluctuations. But they say that the crime figures are important as a barometer of the magnitude of the problem.

The F.B.I. index has traditionally comprised seven categories — the violent crimes of murder, forcible rape, robbery and assault, and the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft and motor-vehicle thefts.

Among the 25 largest cities, New York was 13th in the proportionate number of murders, 20th in forcible rape, first in robbery, eighth in assault, seventh in burglary, 20th in larceny-theft and sixth in motor-vehicle theft.

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